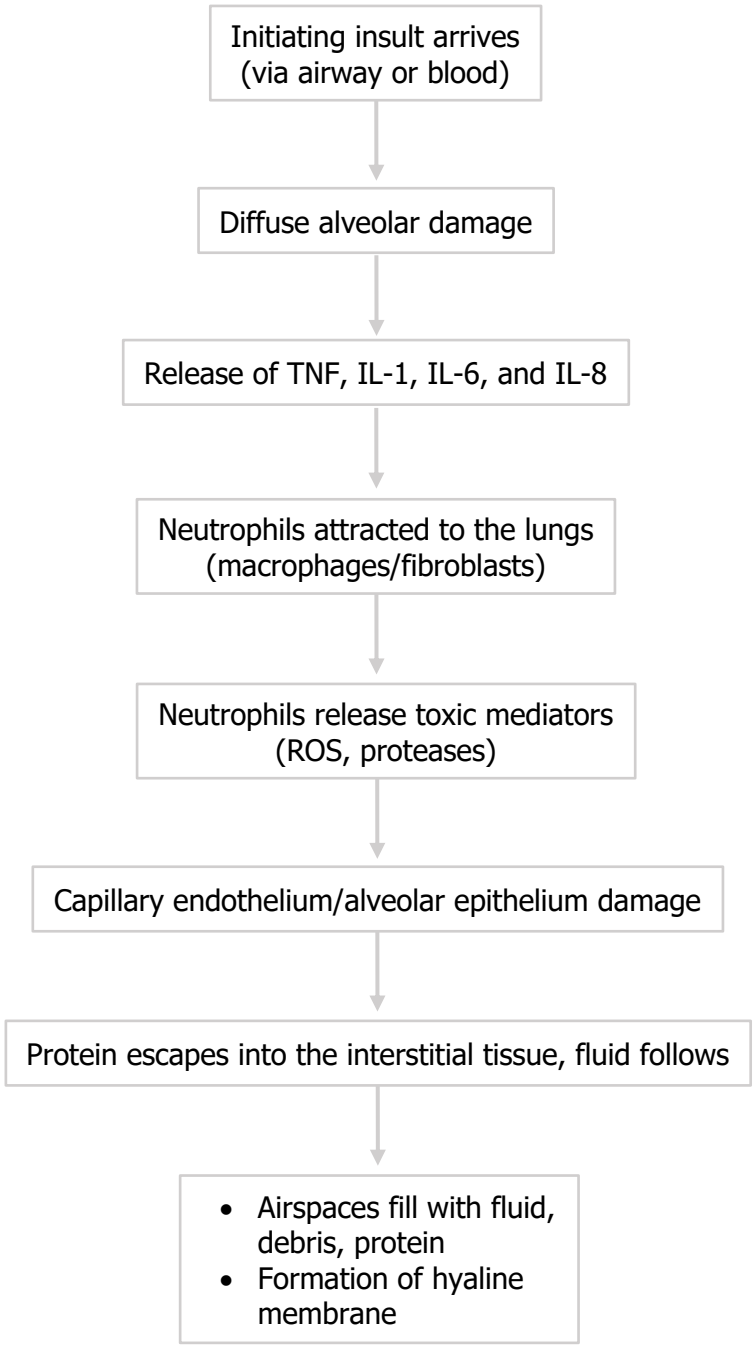
Initiating insult arrives (via airway or blood)
Diffuse alveolar damage
Release of TNF, IL-1, IL-6, and IL-8
Neutrophils attracted to the lungs (macrophages/fibroblasts)
Neutrophils release toxic mediators (ROS, proteases)
Capillary endothelium/alveolar epithelium damage
Protein escapes into the interstitial tissue, fluid follows
Airspaces fill with fluid, debris, protein
Formation of hyaline membrane